

LOOK AT THE DATE opposite your name on this paper. What does it say?

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CIRCUIT JUDGE.
We are authorized to announce
JAMES D. HARNETT
a candidate for Circuit Judge of the County of St. Louis, Missouri, at the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

REPRESENTATIVE.
We are authorized to announce
WALTER HUGHES
a candidate for Representative, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

COUNTY COLLECTOR.
We are authorized to announce
ABE LARIMORE
a candidate for County Collector, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
T. F. HODEN
a candidate for County Collector, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
F. P. REBER
a candidate for County Collector, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
JAMES W. HALL
a candidate for County Collector, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
WILLIAM H. JACOB
a candidate for County Collector, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.
We are authorized to announce
ORLANDO HITT
a candidate for County Attorney, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
JOHN D. O'BRIEN
a candidate for County Attorney, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

COUNTY SHERIFF.
We are authorized to announce
W. H. BALLEW
a candidate for County Sheriff, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
H. P. MIDDLETON
a candidate for County Sheriff, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
WILLIAM J. JAMES
a candidate for County Sheriff, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
PHILIP JOHNSON
a candidate for County Sheriff, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

COUNTY SENSITOR.
We are authorized to announce
J. W. YAGGER
a candidate for County Senator, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
J. M. RYAN
a candidate for County Senator, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
RUFUS JOHNSON
a candidate for County Senator, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

COUNTY JUDGE.
We are authorized to announce
JAMES HEATON
a candidate for County Judge, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
J. A. LEWIS
a candidate for County Judge, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
BANKER BARNES
a candidate for County Judge, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR.
We are authorized to announce
J. E. JESSE
a candidate for Public Administrator, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
JACOB SCHOPP
a candidate for Public Administrator, subject to the action of the County Democratic primary, May 7, 1904.

WE are authorized to announce
G. W. WYDE
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WE are authorized to announce
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WILLIAM OWEN

Writes John O'neal an Open Letter
Published Below in Full.

To the Editor of the Ledger:
Mexico, Mo., April 28, 1904.—
On Friday the 24th of April, 1904,
I forwarded to you, O. O'neal, the
following open letter and since re-
ceiving it he has remained silent
on the subject to which it refers.
I ask you to publish the letter.
M. C. (WILLIAM) OWEN.

AN OPEN LETTER.

To John D. O'neal:
Sir—It has come to my ears that
you have charged in public speeches
that I gave false testimony in the
case of State vs. Barnes, and that I
was bribed to do so.
When I first heard it I was loath
to believe that you would do such a
thing. But the proof is indisputable,
you have made the charge at Beagles,
Rush Hill and Laddonia. If you
spoke the truth I am unfit to enjoy
my liberty. If your words are false,
then, sir, you are a common, malicious
and wicked slanderer.
I desire to make the issue between
us clear-cut, well defined and sharp,
and hence I say, when you charge that
I committed perjury in giving my
testimony in that case, and when you
say I was bribed in that case, you
utter a compound falsehood, wholly
void of truth or the semblance of
truth.

You must have known your statements
were false when you made them.
You knew I testified three
times in the Barnes case—the first
time before the first grand jury,
the second time before the second
grand jury of Audrain county, and the third
time at the final trial. You were
acting as a "witness holder" for
the prosecution, and you and the
active counsel for the State knew
what my testimony would be for more
than a year before I gave it. At Troy,
and you did not put one single
word on the stand to contradict me,
or to prove I made a contrary statement,
either on oath or otherwise. This you
know is verified by the record of the
case which is preserved.

If my testimony was false it was
before you for attack. I was
there, subject to exposure and con-
tradiction. You failed then to con-
tradict my testimony in the smallest
particular. You didn't do it, and you
couldn't do it then and you know
you can't do it now. If you and all
your associates were silent then, when
I was here I could look you in the
face and answer our accusations, com-
mon decency and proper sense of self
respect should suggest to you to hold
your tongue and desist from slander-
ing me before the public, behind my
back, when I have no opportunity for
reply. All that I have said herein
you know to be the truth. And with
this knowledge you made the un-
warranted charge against me. And,
sir, you did not stop there. You said
I was bribed. You said I was paid
money, and with the money I bought
a piano. I cannot conceive how you
could utter such a foul and slanderous
statement. I have a piano. I am a
poor man and suppose I should not
indulge in such luxuries, but I am the
father of a sick and crippled boy. The
only enjoyment he is able to get out
of a world that is very dreary to him
is from music.

Let me state how I obtained the piano.
I had an organ; I sold it for \$30
to John Callahan of Benton City; I
borrowed \$10 from Mason Creasey of
Mexico; I saved \$10 from my earnings;
I bought the piano from the Kimball
company, through J. M. Burroughs, at
Mexico, I paid \$60 down on it,
(the sum of the above items) and the
remainder by a chattel mortgage,
and have been saving from my earn-
ings and paying \$8 per month on it,
and it is not paid for yet. The mortgage
is on file in the office of the Re-
corder of Deeds for Audrain county,
and the monthly payments have been
made by me at the Savings Bank at
Mexico, and at the North Missouri
Trust Co., in Mexico, and every dollar
paid was honestly earned by my hard
labor over the butcher's block. The
note showing the credits and the un-
paid balance is in the possession of the
North Missouri Trust Co., subject to
public inspection.

The above are the undisputed facts
and I appeal to all persons to investi-
gate and see for themselves.
Sir, I never harmed you by word or
deed in my life. You always pretended
to be my friend. I was paying no at-
tention to your race for public office.
I am a Democrat, but take no part in
politics or political campaigns. I have
all I can do to attend to my own busi-
ness and earn an honest living. I
have lived in Mexico for 28 years. I
never had any trouble with any man,
was never sued, nor did I ever sue any
man, and have always paid my honest
debts. I am a laboring man and earn
my living by the sweat of my brow. I
did not know I had an enemy in a poor
man, my clothes are not of the latest
cut, and my hands are rough and bear
the marks of honest toil, but I am
what I am, and my character is my
capital and as dear to me and mine as
to any man.

You, sir, I know wear clothes of the
latest cut, part your hair in the
middle, except when running for office,
live in illness, scorn to stoop to
either mental or physical labor, play
the oboe in such "society" as can
endure you, and care nothing for such
men as me, except to use or abuse
them; and if you had confined your
slanders of me to Mexico, where you
are known and where I am known,
they would have been harmless, but
when you have gone into remote parts
of the county and attacked me who
have purposely done me a great in-
jury.

Now, sir, I have laid the facts before
you and ask you to right the wrong
you have done me.
And I ask the people of Audrain
county to come to Mexico and investi-
gate your private and public character
and learn your standing among the
people who know you. As to my own
standing, I invite examination also.

Public Sale.
I will sell at Public Sale in Mexico
Mo., on Saturday, April 30, 1904, at 10
a. m., about twenty pure bred Poland
China sows, bred to farrow soon. Stock
lot closed and bred up-to-date. Pedigree
furnished on day of sale.
J. W. BOKES,
AUXASSE, Mo.

Rain at Paris.
PARIS, Mo., April 25.—The heaviest
rain in years began falling in this
section last night, and has continued
at intervals to-day. Creeks are all
out of their banks and Salt River is
flooding the lowlands all along its
course. Much damage is resulting.

Columbia Fete.
The Workers of the Christian
Church give a Columbia Fete at the
Opera House on the night of Monday,
May 16th. It will be a spectacular and
a delightful affair. The lady who has
charge is up-to-date and thoroughly
understands how to please the people.

Fence.
Rods and rods of all kind of fencing
at Ferris & Cuthbert's. Don't fail to
see it before buying.

and append to this letter a statement
of some of the best men in Mexico as
to who I am and my reputation.
I knew it was a common talk that
"O'neal ran for a lawyer and got beat."
I knew that you could not appear in
court and contend face to face, for the
mastery over an antagonist; that in
court, where lawyers talked, you were
dumb and silent, and that out of
court, where lawyers do not talk
about their trials, you growled and
gabbled and stirred up strife with a
tongue that never tired. I knew that,
as a lawyer, you were simply a "hoax,"
and that in practicing (?) law you
acted like one hunting ducks with
brass bands; and I knew that as a
lawyer you were looked upon by bench
and bar as a "joke," but I certainly
did not think you would rob a man of
his private reputation to secure to
yourself the salary of a public office.
But in that I was mistaken. Your
unwarranted attack on me shows
clearly that you would not hesitate to
destroy any man's character—to ruin
the reputation of any, without regard
to age or sex, if you could profit,
either personally or politically, by so
doing.

This is a personal matter between
you and myself. I do not intend to
be drawn into your political fights. I
simply ask you to repair the injury
you have done me. If you refuse to
do so, in the light of the facts as here
presented to you, and as you know
them to exist, then, instead of being
commissioned to prosecute others, you
richly merit prosecution yourself.
Respectfully submitted,
M. C. (WILLIAM) OWEN.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.
We, the undersigned citizens of Mex-
ico, Missouri, having known William
Owen, for about twenty years, take
pleasure in saying that we know him to
be an honest, upright and law-abiding
citizen. We know him to be a sober,
hard-working man, and that he en-
joys a good general reputation in this
community for truth and veracity:
A. D. Jackson Geo M Pearson
J. A. Gohrrie J. A. McIntyre
J. H. Marshall J. Garrett, Jr.
P. H. Gantt J. A. Glandon
A. G. Turner J. W. Plunkett
Wm F Atkinson W. A. Morris
E. R. Locke Fred A. Morris
J. W. McKinley E. M. White
Geo Lee E. E. Jones, Mayor
W. D. Lee P. M. Morris
M. E. Crawford, M. D. T. H. Duncan
J. C. Bassford J. O. Moody
Cecil M. Baskett A. Hughes
F. A. Sannbeck Theo J. Williams
Fred Brand J. T. Williams
R. L. Mundy J. O. Barth
H. Mundy R. P. Hopkins
V. F. Morris W. K. Potts, ex-Mayor
J. A. Brown W. H. White
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Advertised Letters.
List of letters remaining in the Post
Office at Mexico, Mo., for the week
ending April 28, 1904, which if not
called for in thirty days will be sent
to the dead letter office at Wash-
ington. Persons calling for letters in this
list will please say "advertised":
Allen, Mary Asbury, John
Brown, David Brown, Levi
Britch, Mrs. Jennie C. H.
Carter, John Carver, Mrs.
Frehler, G. Jas. Frencener, Eugene
Fulter, W. S. Fitzpatrick, Ed
Gentry, Annie Frazier, J. N.
Gentry, G. A. Gorman, Mayme
Hopkins, J. D. Hall, Mrs. Long
Johnson, J. Murphy, Olivia
Miller, Mrs. Annie Osakes, Sued
Pideron, Swan Reinhold, A. J.
Robert, J. W. Roberts, J. Edna
Smith, John Smith, Mrs. Edna
Winger, Gottlieb
West, Chas. Walker, Ruth
Williams, Mrs. Mollie
McDaniel, E. W.
GEORGE H. KUNKEL,
Postmaster.

A Heavy Rainfall.
The rainfall for the past week
has been especially heavy, the precipita-
tion for the forty-eight hours ending
at 7 o'clock Monday morning having
been 3.27 inches, with two very slight
rains intervening and the fall of 1.35
in the 24 hours ending Wednesday
morning, the entire rainfall from 7
o'clock Monday morning, 6 days, was
4.87 inches. The heaviest rainfall for
the entire month in the past 27 years
was 8.46 inches in 1893 and the least
.39 inch in 1888. On April 9, 1891, 2.67
inches fell, which is the record precipi-
tation for 24 hours.

The surface water from the heavy
rains has flushed the creeks beyond
their banks and much damage is being
done.
Best stock food. Sheep and hog dips.
S. P. EMMONS.

Senatorial Committee Meeting.
There will be a meeting of the Sen-
atorial Committee called to meet at
Bowling Green next Monday, May 2,
at 2 p. m. Members of committee are
as follows:
A. E. Jenkins, Farber, Mo., Chair-
man.
Cook Groves, Mexico.
M. O. Biggs, Bowling Green.
W. F. Hawkins, Bowling Green.
M. W. Sifton, Moscow Mills.
J. F. Jones, Moscow Mills.
A. E. JENKINS.

Counties Holding Contests This Week.
FRIDAY.
Camden, township meetings, 2.
SATURDAY.
Barry, primary, 5.
Cape Girardeau, primary, 5.
Callaway, primary, 8.
Pettis, primary, 8.
Texas, mass meeting, 4.
Total delegates, 32.

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ONLY ONE PRIMARY.

COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMIT-
TEE WILL PROBABLY TAKE
ACTION FRIDAY.

MEETING OF DEMOCRATS WEDNESDAY

The Central Committee Will Con-
sider Matter of Voting for Gov-
ernor and Secretary of State
at County Primary,
May 7th.

At a meeting of the Democrats in
this city Wednesday morning W. O.
Hostetter, of Vandalia, Chairman of
the Audrain Central Democratic Cen-
tral Committee, decided to call a
meeting of the County Central Com-
mittee at the Court House in this
city for Friday morning, April 29, at
11:30 o'clock.

The supposed reason for calling the
meeting is to consider action toward
consolidating the county and State
primaries, and having the offices of
Governor and Secretary of State
placed on the ticket.

Those present at the meeting, or
conference, Wednesday, according to
Mr. Hostetter, were: C. G. Daniel,
Vandalia; C. A. Davault, Farber; A.
H. Whitney, Mexico; Col. Green Clay,
Mexico; S. B. Cook, Jefferson City;
M. R. K. Biggs, Farber; W. O. Hos-
tetter, Vandalia; W. H. Kennan, J. T.
Johnson, J. A. Potts and J. A. Bots.
Four of these are county commit-
teemen.

When seen after the meeting Mr.
Hostetter declined to state who called
the meeting and denied the report
that it was a star chamber affair.
This denial was also made by Senator
Biggs, C. A. Davault and C. G. Dan-
iel, the latter saying that he has
always been a Reed man, but that he
is now a Folk man.

Senator Biggs and Mr. Davault are
also Folk followers.
It is understood on good authority
that action toward having the county
and State primaries on the same day
will undoubtedly be carried out.

Mr. Hostetter said that the meet-
ing of Wednesday had been under con-
sideration for a week or so, but did
not give a reason for public announce-
ment not having been given.

**To the Democratic Voters of Audrain
County.**
Since April 16th I have been con-
fined to my home by sickness and on ac-
count thereof have not since April
16th been able to continue my canvass
for the Democratic nomination to the
office of Sheriff of this county. My
improved condition leads me to be-
lieve that I will be able to continue
my canvass in a few days; but the
time lost will prevent me from visit-
ing many localities and seeing many
voters whom I would otherwise have
seen.

I take this means of informing the
voters in those localities which I am
unable to visit on account of lost time
and why I have not called upon them.
Very respectfully, PHILIP JOHNSON,
d.wit. Candidate for Sheriff.

Two Suits For Divorce.
Two suits for divorce have been
filed in the Circuit Court this week,
both residents of Vandalia.
John N. Whitten sues for divorce
from Clara Whitten, stating that they
were wed in Brown county, Ill., Sept.
15, 1892. The plaintiff alleges that
they lived together until April, 1904,
and that his wife has been untrue to
his marriage vows.
George Hatten sues for a divorce
from Amanda Hatten, stating that
his wife has failed and refused to ac-
company him from their former home
to Vandalia, where, he states it is best
for business reasons for him to be
located. They were married in Boone
county, Mo., in July, 1890, and parted
in October, 1901.

George Garrett to Wed.
George Garrett, of East St. Louis,
son of Mr. and Mrs. James Garrett,
of this city, and Miss Maude Duffy,
of Vandalia, will be married at the
home of the bride's aunt in Vandalia
Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.
They will leave on an afternoon train
for St. Louis. The bride-to-be is a
daughter of the late Representative
Duffy, of Pike county, and is a most
estimable young woman.

Mr. Garrett formerly lived in this
city and now has an important po-
sition in the administration department
of the East St. Louis Transit Co.

Grand Prairie School.
Miss Berenice Hawkins closed a very
successful term of school at Grand
Prairie Thursday. The pupils sur-
prised their teacher by bringing well filled
baskets and at noon hour the table
was spread